(b) whether the Ministry has directed all the mutual funds to participate in the next round of bidding;

(c) whether it is a fact that the reserved prices of these shares are much higher than what they would fetch in the stock market; and

(d) if not, what are the comparative figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) Government targetted to raise Rs. 3500 crores through disinvestment of PSU shares during 1992-93, and realised Rs. 1912.51 crores. Since the prices for PSU shares quoted by the bidders were less than the referal price fixed by the Government all the shares offerd were not sold. The referal prices of the shares were fixed by the Government on the recommendations made by three merchant bankers, namely ICICI, IDBI and SBI Capital Markets Ltd., who are to take; into consideration amongst other factors, the market prices also, if available, while suggesting the reserve prices. The Ministry have not issued any directives to Mutual Funds to participate in the next round of bidding.

Locking up of money by PSUs

†@@1950. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what follow up action has been contemplated by Government on the report of C&AG regarding locking up of more than Rs. 9 crore by the Public Sector Undertakings in violation of the RBI guidelines; and

†@@Previously Unstarred Question 891 transferred from 4th May, 1993.

(b) what is its impact on the health of these public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHRAGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The C&AG of India's Report No. 3 of 1993 contains a para on investment of surplus funds by some public sector undertakings. The PSE and the administrative Ministries/Departments concerned look into the specific objections mentioned in the C&AG's report and take suitable remedial measures, keeping in view the losses, if any, incurred by the concerned enterprises or any disadvantageous position to which the PSUs were put in running the enterprises on commercial lines.

Low employment generation

†@@@1951. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the number of small scale industries has increased by 6.8 per cent in 1991-92 as compared to 1990-91, the increase in the employment avenues could provide jobs only to 3 per cent people in comparison to last year;

(b) if not, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have obtained any information regarding the reasons for availability of employment to lesser number of people; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, and whether Government propose to consider to give incentives for setting up of labour-based industries in the country in the coming years?

†@@@Previously Unstarred Question 756, transferred from 3rd May, 1993.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No specific study to obtain the information regarding the reasons for availability of employment to lesser number of people has been conducted, however as per the results of the Second All India Census of Registered Small Scale Industries conducted with reference year 1987-88, it was revealed that more number of tiny units are being set up in rural and backward areas resulting decrease in per unit employment.

(d) Promotion of Small Scale Industries is a state subject. State/U.T. Governments have their own programmes for the development of small scale units particularly labour intensive small scale units. The Government of India provides various types of concessions and incentives for encouraging establishment of small scale units.

National Quality Council

†@@@@1952. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a National Quality Council in the country;

(b) if so, what is the purpose of setting up such council;

(c) whether inferior quality products being manufactured and sold in the country would have any check; and

(d) if so, the details of the remedial steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The proposal regarding setting up if a National Quality Council is under consideration of the Government.

Separating production of explosive and accessories

1953. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of explosives and manufacturing of accessories have been put in special schedule in the new Industrial Policy;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider its policy and separate the two, i.e. explosive and accessories, especially detonators, so that it would be easier for the private entrepreneurs to get success to produce the accessories without much hindrances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) In terms of the Industrial licensing policy notified vide S.O. 477(E) dated 25.7.91, Industrial Explosives including Detonating Fuses, Safety Fuses, Gun Powder and Pyrotechnic products are covered in Schedule II (i.e. the list of indusries in respect of which industrial licensing is compulsory) to the notification.

No proposal for review of the above Industrial Policy in regard to erplosives industry including its accessories is under consideration.

†@@@@Previously Unstarred Question 670 transferred from 29th April, 1993.